

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A thermal power plant maintenance service provision method for use with a thermal power plant maintenance system comprising a control device for control of an operation state and process amount of plant equipment and a maintenance tool operatively coupled via a network to said control device for performing maintenance of a controlling controller as built in said device, wherein the system further comprises a remote maintenance device for executing a function similar to that of said maintenance tool,

and said remote maintenance device is operable to receive process amount data or control signal data ~~test data~~ from said maintenance tool via said communication line, and wherein data of report summarizing therein monitor search content and evaluation is sent toward said maintenance tool via said communication line.

2. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service provision method as recited in claim 1, providing a maintenance service wherein, upon occurrence of an obstruction at said controlling controller, said remote maintenance device receives error log information of said controlling controller from said maintenance tool via said communication line, and wherein a maintenance service providing person analyzes said error log information at said remote maintenance device to thereby prepare an obstruction recovery procedure, and wherein data of said obstruction recovery procedure is sent toward said maintenance tool via communication line to thereby visually display said obstruction recovery procedure on a monitor of said maintenance tool.

3. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service provision method as recited in claim 1, providing a maintenance service wherein, upon occurrence of an obstruction at said controlling controller, said remote maintenance device receives from said maintenance tool via said communication line a signal indicative of an occurrence of an obstruction at said controlling controller, wherein an error log acquisition request signal of said controlling controller is sent to said maintenance tool via said communication line, and wherein, upon receipt of said error log acquisition request signal, said maintenance tool is operable to automatically acquire the error log information of said controlling controller.

4. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service provision method as recited in claim 1, providing a maintenance service wherein, upon occurrence of an alarm due to plant control abnormality or upon issuance of a control failure search request through manipulation of said maintenance tool, said remote maintenance device receives plant data from said maintenance tool via said communication line, wherein a maintenance service providing person analyzes and evaluates said plant data at said remote maintenance device for preparation of a report, and wherein data of said report is sent to said maintenance tool via said communication line.

5. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 1, providing a maintenance service wherein, upon issuance of a plant operation monitor search request through manipulation of said maintenance tool, said remote maintenance device receives plant data from said maintenance tool via said communication line, wherein a maintenance service providing person analyzes and evaluates said plant data at said remote maintenance device to thereby prepare a report, and wherein data of said report is sent to said maintenance tool via said communication line.

6. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 1, wherein the maintenance service providing person directly modifies more than one control parameter and control circuitry within said controlling controller via said communication line and said maintenance tool and said network.

7. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service provision method as recited in claim 2, providing a maintenance service wherein, upon occurrence of an obstruction at said controlling controller, said remote maintenance device receives from said maintenance tool via said communication line a signal indicative of an occurrence of an obstruction at said controlling controller, wherein an error log acquisition request signal of said controlling controller is sent to said maintenance tool via said communication line, and wherein, upon receipt of said error log acquisition request signal, said maintenance tool is operable to automatically acquire the error log information of said controlling controller.

8. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 2, wherein the maintenance service providing person directly modifies more than one control parameter and control circuitry within said controlling controller via said communication line and said maintenance tool and said network.

9. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 3, wherein the maintenance service providing person directly modifies more than one control parameter and control circuitry within said controlling controller via said communication line and said maintenance tool and said network.

10. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 7, wherein the maintenance service providing person directly modifies more than one control parameter and control circuitry within said controlling controller via said communication line and said maintenance tool and said network.

11. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 4, wherein the maintenance service providing person directly modifies more than one control parameter and control circuitry within said controlling controller via said communication line and said maintenance tool and said network.

12. (original): The thermal power plant maintenance service providing method as recited in claim 5, wherein the maintenance service providing person directly modifies more than one control parameter and control circuitry within said controlling controller via said communication line and said maintenance tool and said network.